REMARKS

As amended, claim 1 distinguishes over the cited art which simply removes the noise term. Claim 1, as written, calls for identifying for each signal portion primarily signal attributes and primarily noise attributes. Each of those signal portions include a signal attribute and noise. A distance measure is derived for one signal portion including noise, by using the primarily signal attributes of both signal portions including noise attributes. In other words, this is directly contrary to the cited reference which simply suggests removing the noise and then doing the speech processing.

Therefore, claim 1 as amended should be in condition for allowance.

On the same analysis, claims 11, 27, and 29 should also be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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